



PREVENTING & RESPONDING TO STUDENT SUICIDE

PROMISING STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOLS



Speaker Biographies



Elizabeth Brutsch

Injury Epidemiologist

Utah Department of Health

Elizabeth Brutsch works in the Violence and Injury Prevention program in the state Department of Health. Her research has studied preventive factors against suicidal ideation and behavior in adolescents. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from BYU-Idaho, and her Master's of Public Health degree from Brigham Young University.



Cathy Davis

Suicide Prevention Specialist

Utah State Office of Education

Cathy Davis taught ecology, biology, and health sciences for over eighteen years and for seven of those years taught school success to at-risk students. She is a small business owner and a graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program. Davis has training in eating disorders, grief counseling, trauma-informed care and is certified with the American Association for Suicidology as a school suicide prevention specialist.



Elizabeth Dexter-Mazza

Licensed Psychologist

Mazza Consulting and Psychological Services, PLLC

Dr. Lizz Dexter-Mazza has expertise in treating adolescents, adults and families facing a variety of mental health difficulties, including but not limited to depression, anxiety, suicide, and non-suicidal self-injurious behaviors. Dr. Dexter-Mazza approaches treatment from a cognitive behavioral theoretical orientation and is an expert in providing Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). She also provides DBT training to other mental health professionals and is currently working on expanding the use of DBT skills to school-based populations.



Anna Fondario

Injury Epidemiologist

Utah Department of Health

Anna Fondario has worked in the Utah Department of Health Violence and Injury Prevention Program since 2005. She manages prescription drug overdose prevention activities in Utah and serves as chair of the Utah Pharmaceutical Drug Community Project, a multi-agency coalition focused on reducing prescription drug abuse, misuse, and overdose deaths. Fondario is also on the Data Abstraction team and provides data, including those relating to suicide in Utah, to other state agencies.



Douglas Gray

Professor and Director of Education and Training

University of Utah School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry

As a suicidologist, Dr. Doug Gray studies suicide completers in an attempt to better understand suicide risk factors, and help develop future suicide prevention programs across the age span. He uses the psychological autopsy method, and biologic studies, to learn more about suicide risk. Dr. Gray enjoys his clinical practice, seeing child and adolescent patients at the university, and leading the medical student and resident training for the Department of Psychiatry.



Greg Hudnall

Founder and Executive Director

HOPE4UTAH

Dr. Greg Hudnall presents extensively on suicide prevention, intervention and postvention to schools, churches, communities and state agencies. He has spent the last fifteen years as the Executive Director of a community crisis team responding to suicides, and spent four years working with Orem Community Hospital emergency room as a therapist. Dr. Hudnall served as Principal of Independence High School for 11 years, where he was both Director of Student Services and Associate Superintendent in Provo City School District.



Christy Hutchinson

K-12 Prevention Coordinator

Davis School District

Christy Hutchinson is currently implementing multiple new strategies in Davis School District to identify at-risk students and prevent and respond to youth suicide. She loves reaching students through character education and socio-emotional learning. Prior to working with Davis School District, Hutchinson was a counselor in the district for 10 years.

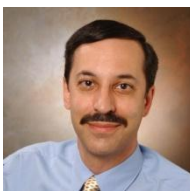


Jenn Rader

Founder and Director

James Morehouse Project at El Cerrito High School (California)

Jenn Rader was a full-time teacher until 1998 when she founded the JMP, a student health and wellness center that provides primary and mental health care to El Cerrito students and also works with school faculty to create and sustain a trauma-sensitive school community. Rader also works closely with school district, community based, and county providers to link systems of care for youth facing mental health challenges, including developing best practices for suicide prevention and postvention response.



David Schonfeld

Director

National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement

In addition to his work with the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement, Dr. David Schonfeld is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician and Professor of Practice in the School of Social Work and Pediatrics at the University of Southern California and Children's Hospital Los Angeles. He is a member the American Academy of Pediatrics Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council and served as a Commissioner for both the National Commission on Children and Disasters and the Sandy Hook Commission in Connecticut.



Frank Zenere

School Psychologist and Department Head of the Crisis Management Program

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (Florida)

Frank Zenere has served on numerous state committees overseeing the development of school safety policies and procedures, including suicide prevention, and best practice guidelines for the prevention of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from critical incidents and disasters impacting school communities. He currently works for the nation's fourth largest school district, serving over 350,000 students. Frank has also been active as a trainer and crisis responder at the state, national and international levels.